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MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY GRANT
EAST LANSING, MI

The Michigan State University Board of Trustees Thursday accepted \$18.2 million in gifts, grants and contracts, including money for a controversial study said to be administered by the Central Intelligence Agency.

The action came despite a protest from mathematics Prof. John Masterson, who objects to the reputed CIA involvement with the \$741,000 math research project.

The board did not vote directly on the project itself, but on the overall grants package which included the contested item.

The grant -- for basic research into so-called 'change mathematics' -- comes from the U.S. Defense Department's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

The recipient, math Prof. Shui Nee Chow, said the work is being administered by the CIA solely because that agency has a staff mathematician familiar with the field.

The link has not been confirmed by the CIA itself.

Masterson, in an appearance before the board, likened the CIA to organized crime syndicates.

Claiming that the Pentagon is seeking greater control over university research, Masterson said 'we are very possibly selling our soul from an academic as well as humanitarian point of view.'

In a letter to Masterson, MSU Vice President John Cantlon defended the grant and noted the results of Chow's work will be openly published.

During the board meeting, Trustee Patrick Wilson of Traverse City said he did not believe the Chow grant goes past the 'threshold' at which the board should consider rejecting it. 'I view that threshold as where there is a clear threat to the university's public service and teaching mission,' he said.